Yet the most sacred space in all that gorgeous pile is a railed-in space where the Prophet appeared in a vision to a devotee in rags.

East time I saw the Jama Musjid its doors were flung open wide once more for kingly feet, and the bodyguard of the Amir of Cabul lined the way and squatted in the vaulted entrance ; strange men with Calmack faces, and clothed in slate grey with orange facings, and grey astrakhan caps, while others were persuaded of the charm of claret facings and mink caps.

We had hoped to have caught a glimpse of the passing of the Amir to prayer, and had clung like limpets to a dusty ladder in the entrance ; but before the weird music of his band had ceased all trace of white blood was disdainfully swept down the red granite flight into the street below. Yet a fakir in a dirty ascetic's dress wandered through casually just as the Amir was expected, sauntering along the red spirally laid carpet lined with soldiers,

where English royalties could not have passed.

The Amir was coming from the sacrifice of the Id, that sacrifice of a goat or a camel in commemoration of the sacrifice of Ishmael,

for